

NEUROLOGIC EMERGENCIES
Coma/Altered Level of Consciousness N1

COMA/ALTERED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Glasgow Coma Scale less than 15, etiology unclear (consider AEIOU TIPS).

1. Ensure a patent airway
 - **OXYGEN** - high flow. Be prepared to support ventilations as needed
2. If decreased level of consciousness, position patient on left side
3. Consider:
 - **ORAL GLUCOSE** - if patient is a known diabetic, is conscious, able to sit in an upright position, and able to self-administer solution
4. Cardiac monitor
5. Test **BLOOD GLUCOSE** level
6. **IV ACCESS** TKO (wide open if in shock)
7. **DEXTROSE 50%** 25 gm IV if blood glucose level equal to or less than 60
 - **GLUCAGON** 1 mg IM if unable to establish IV access
8. **NALOXONE** 1-2 mg IV or IM (if unable to establish IV) if patient has respiratory compromise and narcotic overdose is suspected
 - **NALOXONE** 0.1 mg increments IV (dilute 1:10 with saline) up to 2 mg total to address inadequate respirations for patients who are receiving narcotics for terminal illness
9. Consider:
 - Test **BLOOD GLUCOSE** level if symptoms not resolved
 - **DEXTROSE 50%** 25 gm IV as a repeat dose if blood glucose level equal to or less than 60
 - Repeat **NALOXONE** 1-2 mg IV or IM
10. Contact Base Hospital if ALOC is not resolved